

20 below. Hot stuff! Most of the seem to warm up by pushing cars that get stuck in snow drifts. Chicago had six below and I didn't feel it as much as I thought I would, being a "southerner". The Fairhopeans wish they could share their warmth and sunshine with me (so do I) and Ft. Smith, Ark. was having Indian summer. Speaking of Ft. Smith — Gene Wierbach is working at Camp Chaffee in the Separation Center Finance Office. It is a civil service job.

Jack and Irene Krancus, who before retirement, together with George Tautkus, made up the famous Karre Le Baron Trio, in spite of retirement, lead quite a busy life. Irene teaches dancing. Jack dances quite a bit in the movies. He also owns a downtown office doing tax work and accounting, and in addition a nine flat apartment building, and they have two girls to boot. The Krancus family reside in Long Beach, California. Before settling down they traveled the world over, visiting many countries, including Lithuania. They have danced in many high class night clubs winning great acclaim.

CHICAGO

Many people liked the Xmas issue. Glad to know that. Our printers Valinskas and son Algirdas are also happy to know of your appreciation. We sure worked hard in mailing it out for a large issue entailed a great deal of work. We met at the home of Kazy and Lil, others present were "Red" Hendrix and wife Estelle, Percy Kempinski Pazik, Jane Matecunas, Patsie and Jackie McNamara and George Lavell. We worked like mad! Kazy and Red developed a speedy technique of stamping and everything was like "down-town." Jane said even the girls in her office address envelopes. Thanks to all of you and also to Burt Lawrence and Hugh Jones for their help.

The Saretts had a delightful three-week vacation in Florida where Mr. Sarett was recuperating from another operation. They remembered me by sending to me a basket full of the finest Florida oranges. Thanks!Who would have ever thought I'd be teaching the second generation of my pupils? Trixie Niemec Makowska is now coming down to the N.W., classes with her son Steve, three and a half years old and he too studies folk dancing and loves it and feels plenty slighted if he is not included in the circles.

Doris Rose will be stationed for several months at the Lying In Hospital on the University of Chicago Campus. On free evenings she comes to Int. House for some folk dancing. International House seems to be the meeting place for all who are returning from overseas, or, discharges. Rabbi Sidney Jacobs has been elected to the executive committee of Rockaway Park District (N.Y.) of the Zionist Organization of America..... Jurka Bures was on a several week jaunt in New York having a gay old time attending various functions and concertsMiriam Marcus was transferred to work in New York but came in for the Xmas holidays to Chicago, and, natch, came to the International House.

MATECUNAS-TUMOSA ENGAGEMENT

Jane Matecunas, our lovely and well beloved blond lass, and Arthur Tumosa, who has just returned from overseas, will be married on February 24th, at St. Agnes Church. Both have been members of LYS for the last 12 years and both were good dancers. Jane has been a great help to me with VILTIS. She and Patsie McNamara addressed the envelopes to mail VILTIS. More about Art in the Vet section. Best of luck for a happy wedded life

AS FOR MYSELF

The last month was not a too happy one for me. I've gone through a terrific siege of Colitis. It seems every time I tip the scale at 130 lbs. I get colitis, a dreadful colon ailment that seems quite common in Chicago. Now, I have to observe a strict diet that does not permit me to eat any of the foods I love (salads, fruits, green vegetables, rye bread, etc.), not to worry and stay happy!! But when I get a siege I'm anything but happy. To me, it seems as if the worst happened, and that I better see an undertaker. O bon Dieu, fortifiez moi!

On December 10th I taught dancing in a psychopathic hospital where the patients, nurses and guests who visited the patients, participated. If it were not for the fact that we were all in locked confines, one would never have known that mentally ill people were within that small hall. Almost all patients were young people in their early twenties. The boys were healthy and strong bodily and handsome, and the girls were pretty. All were dressed well and behaved well. They enjoyed the dances greatly and learned just as quickly as any sane person. It was hard to distinguish who was sane or otherwise. It was unfortunate to realize that such healthy bodies must be wasted away in mental darkness and behind locked doors. I wondered what their thoughts were. Surely they must realize their plight when able to reason. There was a discharged vet with wife who had such a grand time. I thought them both to be visitors. But during the parting hour, tenderly and passionately they kissed each other repeatedly at the hard parting. As soon as she was taken away his eyes welled with tears and he left without looking at anyone.

What amazed me was the ability, the great understanding, sympathy and alertness of Miss Cutler, the nurse in charge. A very beautiful colored girl with a brilliant personality. She had a faculty of insight and sight for a dozen people. Even while she played the piano and her back was (supposedly) turned away she saw what each patient or guest was doing, who was approaching the door and who needed attention. She seemed to be everywhere the same time and attended to everything and everyone. She seemed to be out of this world!

On December 14th I've received a detailed account of the European slaughter and the agony of the surviving members of my family. The death rate was not as high as I originally anticipated. My sister and brother were taken by the Russians and sent into central Russia and they are alive, tho their whereabouts is not known. My mother and father were killed by the Germans on September 28, '44. My cousin Leon Cernis is in a Russian concentration camp as a political prisoner. His family was banished into the Siberian wastes of Yakuts where mail comes once every 8 months. His brother Ezak was killed in the dread Dachau on Sept. 6, 1944. My cousin Lolia Aranauskas and 30 other youths were killed by the Germans in front of Fort No. 9, for not divulging certain secrets which they demanded to know. Cousin Julius escaped to Australia where he serves in the Australian Army, while Abrasha is in London, all others of that family were slain. The writer of the letter, my cousin Mrs. Rahil Jaspán, and two children escaped in a small boat.

The SS saw them and shot at them, making holes

in the boat. They struggled in a bullet ridden boat for five hours. Then, a German boat was about to pick them up when a British boat torpedoed the German boat and rescued them. They were given over to the Russian and after several months in camp, they came to Italy via Lodz, Poland, and are now in Rome. The details of the letter are horrible and heart rending. I rejoiced at the news that my sister and brother are alive, but the other details were so sickening as to overshadow the little bit of good news. From all I know, the sister and brother (she, 21 years old, he, 19), whom I've never seen as they were born born after I left Lithuania, I'll probably never see. Nor have I any idea how I could contact them. And so goes it.

Trust Him when dark doubts assail thee.

Trust Him when thy strength is small.

Trust Him when to simply trust Him

Seems the hardest thing of all.

May the Almighty God grant that all the sorrows I, and other sufferers have experienced during these past years of upheaval and war, be visited no more on any of us, and may this coming year bring us all hope, health and happiness. Please pray for me.

After writing the above, something very wonderful happened. The week before Christmas, while visiting my friends the Jania and Engelhardts, where I stayed for nearly a week, I was presented with a gift that made me extremely happy: A present consisting of a round trip and vacation in Fairhope, Alabama! Man! Thanks to God for wonderful friends! I in Fairhope until the 20th of January.

I started meeting Fairhopeans even before I left Chicago. Mrs. Ruby McCants, Eileen McCants Prewett, Horton Crane, and Bettie Toten.

On the train, of all places, I met Capt. Jack Weinberg who was en route to Texas where he is in charge of a psychopathic ward in an air field. Jack and his brother Bernard I met first at Ellis Island, the port that admits immigrants to the United States. We were kids then. They came from Ukraine and I from Lithuania. They also treated me to the first piece of gum I ever chewed. Jack has gone places and achieved a noted position in the Freudian school of psychology. He was instrumental in organizing many clinics through Illinois and also instructed at the Psychopathic Institute of the University of Illinois at Wood Street in Chicago.

It was good to be back in Fairhope and the warm climate. It was good to see old friends and everyone was glad to see me "looking so well." I was there three weeks, and invited out practically daily to dinners and suppers at the homes of various friends, enjoying happy reunions. I also attended all the basket ball games the Organic school played.

The Stuerssel-Fernandez wedding was a happy event for me too. The Stursels were grand friends to me and to be present at the wedding was like being at the marriage of a close kin.

On that same day, Jan. 17th, the folks who enabled me to come to Fairhope, arrived—Mr. and Mrs. Paul Engelhardt, and their friends Mrs. Bertha Arkus and Mrs. Bertha Redempske. They too came to the wedding reception. We had supper at the Colonial Inn. Cabbot Boothe and Jack Smith joining us for supper. The following day we went to the Bellingrath Gardens—the "Charm spot of the Deep South," and that is no exaggeration—a spot of bewitching beauty. We visited many historic spots of Mobile, and also Spring Hill College, spending a pleasant

visit with my friend and spiritual father, Geo. G. McHardy, S. J., whose friendship I cherish.

I visited Cottage Hill, where two years ago, on Jan. 20, I was taken to die with "no chance to recover." I found the place dismal and depressing, and stayed there but a few minutes.

My thanks to all the Fairhope and Mobile friends for entertaining me and making my visit such a pleasant event, and to Jack Smith, Coxswain, who was a pal in need, driving me everywhere, and packing my belongings that were stored in Fairhope, for shipment to Chicago. Special thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Engelhardt who made this trip possible.

Pasimatysim — Vyts-Fin.

O B I T S ...

O. K. Cummings

On January 2, O. K. Cummings, president of the Baldwin County Savings and Loan Association, died suddenly after a heart attack, while he and Mrs. Cummings (she-nee Celina Roberts) were visiting Miami, Fla., were they arrived but a few days earlier. The funeral was held in Fairhope on Sunday, Jan. 6, in accordance to Episcopal rites. Rev. Laird Snell officiated.

Mrs. Charity Ray Green

Mrs. C. R. Green died suddenly of an heart attack on January 7th, in Fairhope. Her remains were interred on Jan. 9th with the Rev. C. B. Wilson of the Methodist Church, officiating.

B A B I E S ...

Just received word from Captain John L. Soong who is now in Shanghai, China, that 6½ lb. son was born to him and Mrs Soong, the former Rebecca Hu, on September 9th. Our best wishes to the three of you.

Captain Johnny is the Aide de Camp to Major General Robert B. McLure who is the Comanding General of the Chinese Combat Command. John was also present at the Japanese surrender in China which was held at Chinchiang, Huran, on August 23rd. When the baby was about to arrive, the General gave John a 9 day leave to be present at the delivery, in Kunming. Then he flew to Nanking to receive his new assignment as Intelligence Officer with duties to tour Jap plants and maintain liason with Chinese Supreme Headquarters. On October 4th he received permission to visit his parents in Shanghai, and while there, the Hq. of the Shanghai base requested his transfer to the Base Command in Shanghai. He was assigned to a special mission immediately and was sent to Hong Kong. He still had two more missions to complete when his letter was written, one to Chinwantao and another to Tsingtao.

John's brother Lt. Bill is in Calcuta, India. Both brothers were students at the University of Chicago. When the war broke out they joined the Armed Forces of United States. When they were stationed in the South they visited me in Fairhope and were treated royally by the Fairhopeans. The Soongs are popular lads and have hosts of friends in Chicago, all of whom join extending them the very best of luck.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Urbanek, of Fairhope, on December 27th and was named Stephen John. Robert Urbanek received his discharge from the Navy, where he was an Aviation Machinist Mate, soon after Margaret (nee Laraway) gave dirth to Steve. The Urbaneks have another child, a very pretty girl of 2½ years, Roberta.